

Serial No.: 10/572,998

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims is not more than three, and the total number of claims is not more than originally filed.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants kindly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (847) 490-1400 if any further change is needed.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to remove previously added limitations and to include limitations of Claim 12. Dependent claims have been amended to change claim dependencies. Claim 26 has been written into dependent form, depending from allowed Claim 27. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

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Drawings

The drawings included in WO 2005/101393 are the drawings submitted with the Patent Application, and were published by the USPTO in the published Patent Application. For the Examiner's convenience replacement drawings are provided.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada, JP 08046381, in view of Chang, U.S. Patent No. 7,028,389, is respectfully traversed. Amended Claim 1 recites a holding strip (27) which can be arranged transversely with respect to the grooves, is dimensioned to span the distance between two grooves, and can be fixed in place by screws threaded into the threaded bores in the two holding element pushed into the respective grooves. The prior art combination does not provide the recited holding strip, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The remaining claims depend from either amended Claim 1 or allowed Claim 27.

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The rejection of Claims 5-9, 11, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada in view of Chang, and further in view of Dessert, U.S. Patent 3,398,249, is respectfully traversed. These dependent claims depend from allowed Claim 27, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for his efforts in determining that Claim 27 is allowed and that Claims 12-16, 23, 24 and 25 contain allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of Claim 12, and all dependent claims depend from amended Claim 1 or allowed Claim 27. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

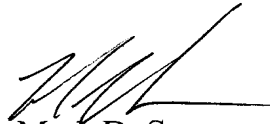
Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed or resolved in this response, the undersigned attorney again requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

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Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MDS', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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